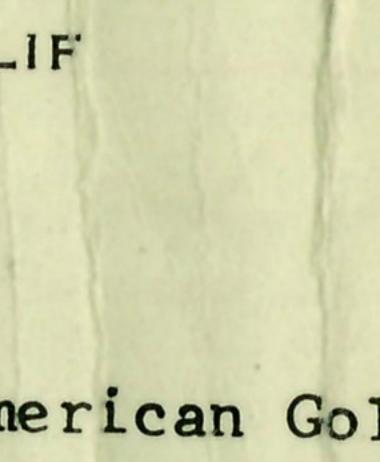
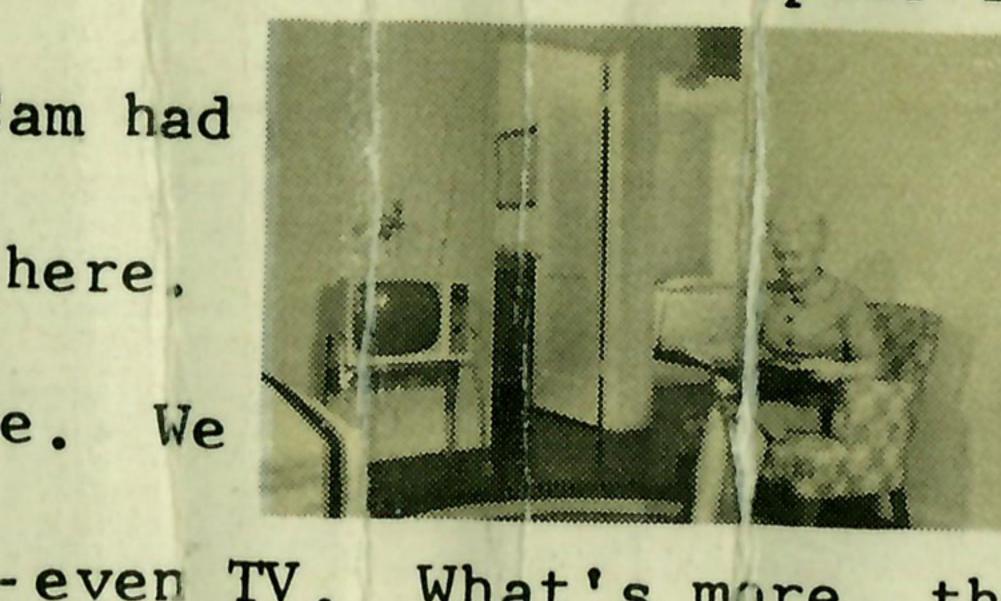


. One story "flat tops"; original Truman Boyd Manor

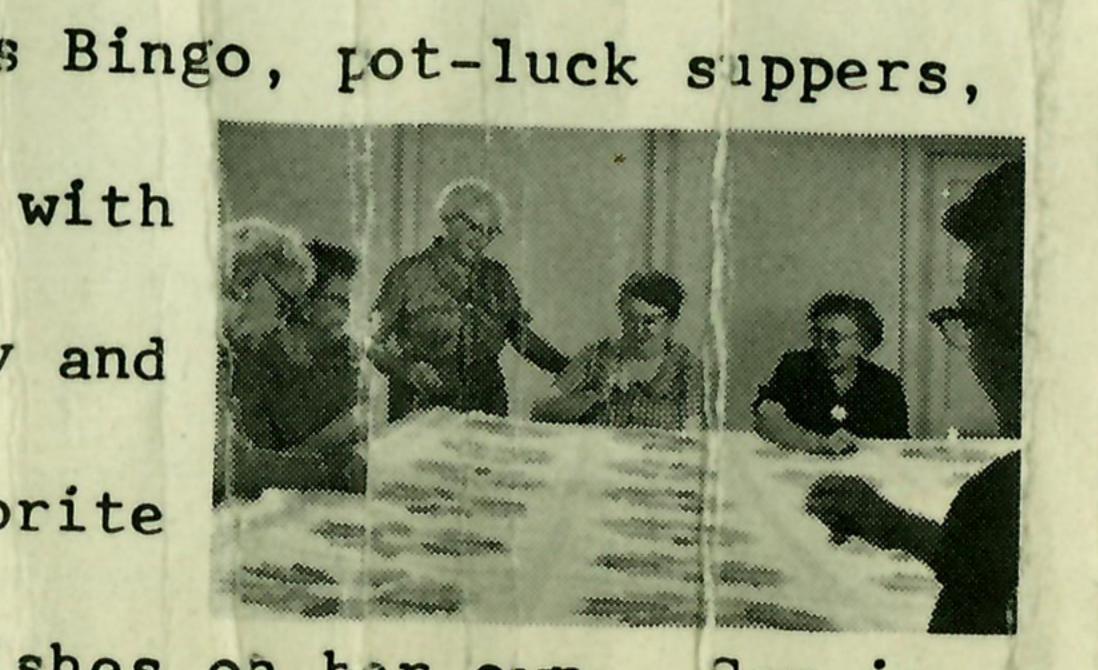


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even TV. What's more, the rk-like acres, a block from surprising thing is the rent ers living on limited budgets

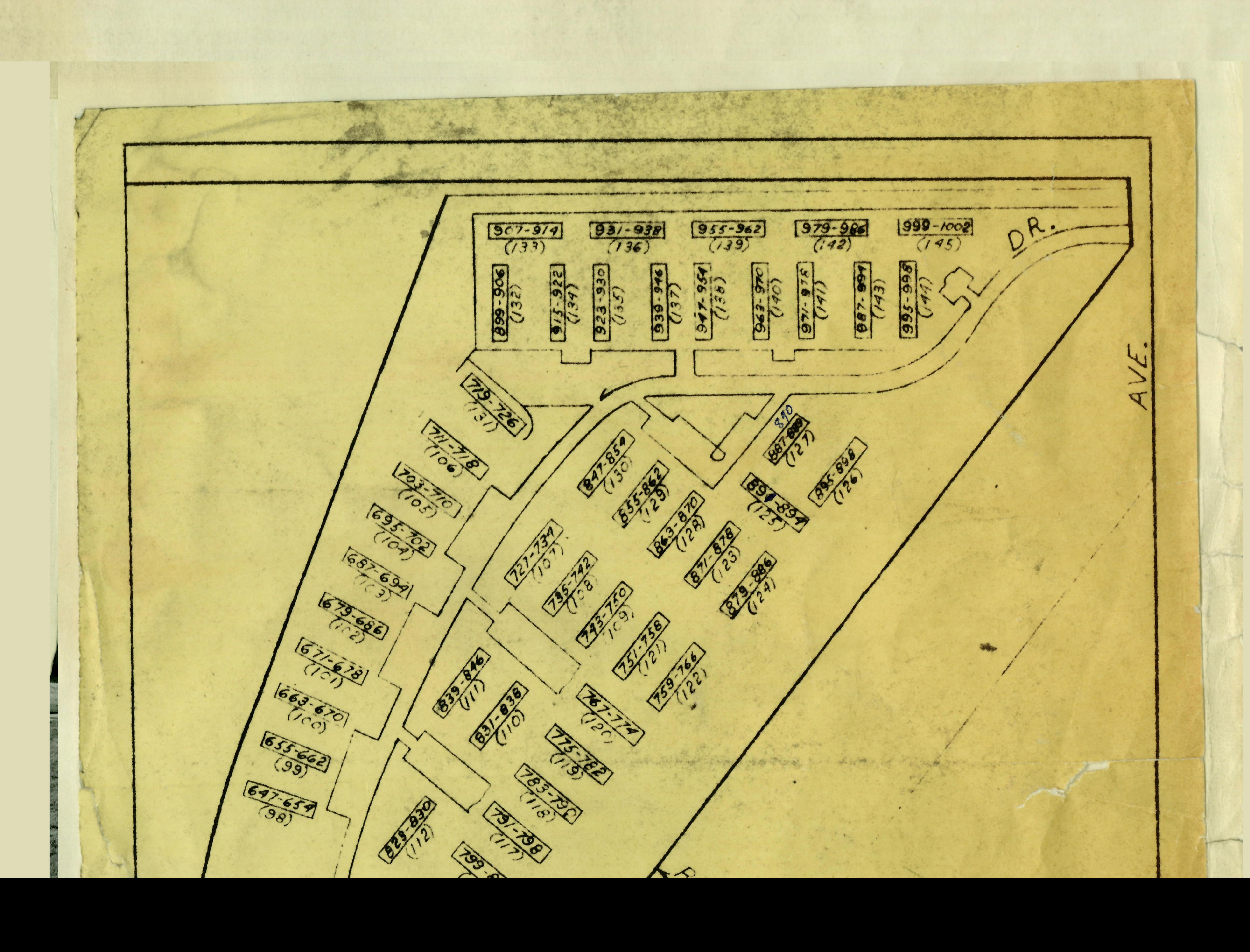


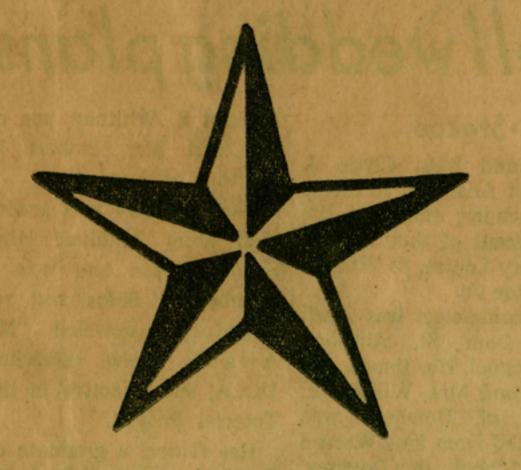
shes on her own. Sam is

f all our neighbors.

country....Oregor...New

...even Florida! Sam can





A common bond gives the 686 residents of a "city within the city" special meaning for Memorial Day.

# Haven for nation's Gold Star Mothers

#### By JOYCE KENT I, P-T Club Editor

The uninitiated motorist traveling north on heavily industrial Santa Fe Avenue is provided a surprise as he approaches Spring Street and spies acres of rolling lawn and tree-lined walks.

If he hasn't already gone by, perhaps he notices the American flag fluttering in the breeze over a sign lettered in gold, "American Gold Star Home."

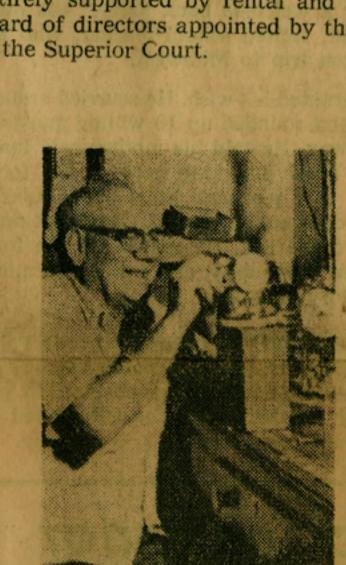
Within the "fence" of leafy trees reside 523 when and 163 men with one thing in common. Each has lost a son or daughter in the service of his country.

Since 1960 these moms and dads, average age of 69, have come from every state in the Union to live side by side in the muted-pink one- and two-story homes that dot the expanse of green.

The sprawling 93-acre facility, owned by American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., is composed of 1,000 units, some 600 occupied by Gold Star moms and dads with the remaining units (rent slightly higher) given over to Navy housing.

Within the area are a recreation center and library, auditorium, clubhouse for the men with fixit and carpentry shops, also shuffle board courts, nine-hole golf course and a memorial park planted with 230 trees of 58 varieties in memory of lost children.

According to George D. Lyon, executive director of the home since its beginning in what formerly was wartime Navy housing, the complex is entirely supported by rental and is operated by a board of directors appointed by the presiding judge of the Superior Court.



Beloved 'Mr. Fixit'



-Staff Photos by JOE RISINGER

Colorful gardens such as this surround living units at American Gold Star Home

Spirit behind the home comes from the 18,000 members of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., who belong to 550 chapters throughout the United States. Only these members are eligible to reside in the home, according to Rose Decker, long-time resident, who currently serves as national second vice president of the organization.

While activities offered at the home would make a highly-organized Boy Scout camp pale by comparison, emphasis is on individuality and occupants may be as active or as passive as they please.

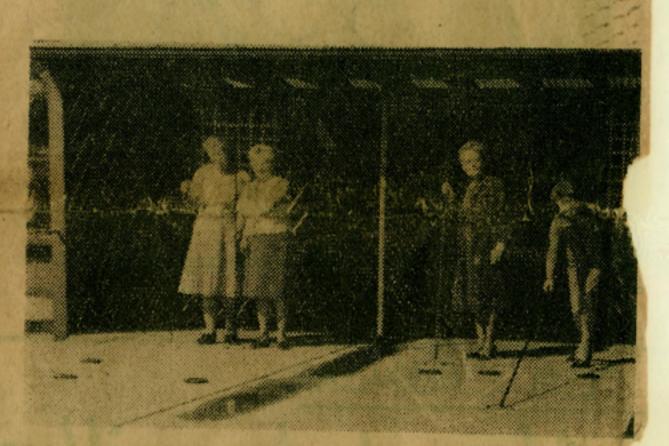
Judging from the riot of color surrounding the housing units, gardening must be number one hobby and awards are given annually for the best tended garden.

Behind the blooms are well cared for apart-

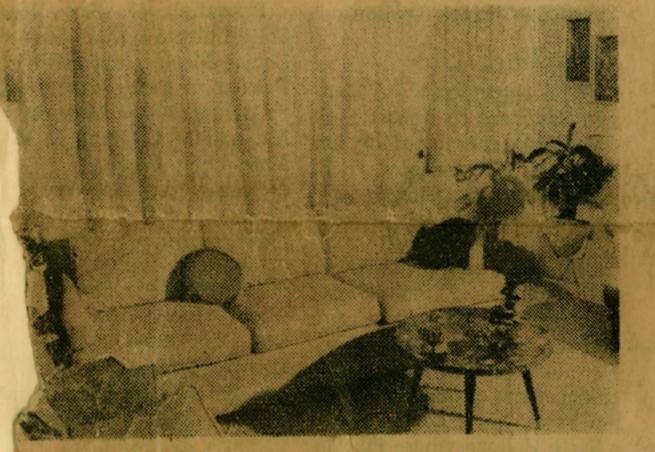
ments, furnished either by the home or by the residents, according to wish. All units are provided with television sets, kept in repair without charge. Rental per unit, including utilities and all facilities of the home, is \$39 per month. If the residents, the majority of whom are widows, are living on only small pensions, the rent is probably less. Nobody tells.

And at 9 o'clock this morning a wreath of poppies will be placed on the home memorial and members will pause as they have so many times—to re-read the words engraved there:

"Spirit
that made these heroes dare to die
to leave their children free
bid time and nature gently spare
this memorial to them and thee."



Shuffle board court is popular place



Typical living room is light and airy



LONG BEACH 12, CALIF., SUNDAY, MAY 30, 1965 SECTION W



Fibbers From +1: L.R. - Thelma Pilato, Jessie Armshy, Pearl Watkins, Mabel Hill & Elizabeth Barber



Minnie Boehler



Same 5 ahovie!



Plaque to cover Capsule - Dedication Ceremoney



E. I. Leonard showing capsule to assembled crowd.



Judge Lloyd S. Nix (Father of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. & RADM William M. Wolnes, President, Coard of Trustees.



nath. Officers - Elva Newman, Josephine Wolmes, Emogene Cupp, Mary Teater, Regina Wilk.



Rose Decker, RADM William McCloy & Josephine Holmes placing capsule.



Josephine Holmes, fose Decker, Natil. President Past Natil. President American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.





Marine Corps Color Guard



Josephine Holmes & RADM Mc Cloy



So froudly It Waves!



maintenance Suph L. C. Wolfe & Jodie Offutt

## PRESS-TELEGRAM

WED., MAY 19, 1976 SEC. B, PAGE 1

#### OLD STAR MOTHER



. Flynn

#### )ME YNN

McCloy, USNR of Trustees, The Home and the anor, announced of Trustees, of Dr. Francis J.

California, Dr. e received his MS the University of Flynn served 17 public school advalley and South spent 21 years at ersity, starting as



#### Plymouth Rock in Long Beach

Residents of Gold Star Manor in Long Beach re-created the landing of the Pilgrims today in a skit during a Bicentennial program at Bixby Park. The event, which was sponsored by the city's Department of Senior Citizen Affairs, was entitled,

"Happy Birthday U.S.A. — 200 Years of a Great Idea." Performers, from left, are Ellen Speaker, Minnie Young, Minnie Boehler, Alice Mott and Earl Cox. Long Beach area residents who are 100 years or older received special honors.

-Staff Photo by BOB SHUMWAY



E.J. Leonard, Vera & Harold 1976 Pinkerton

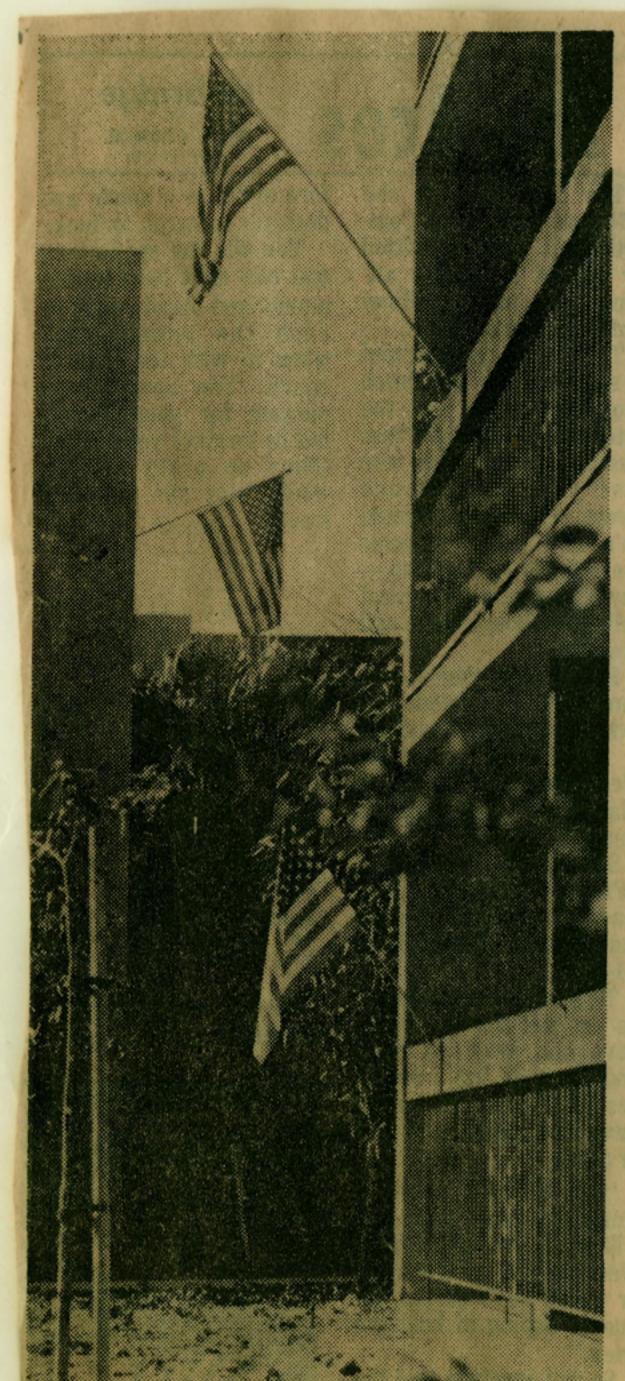


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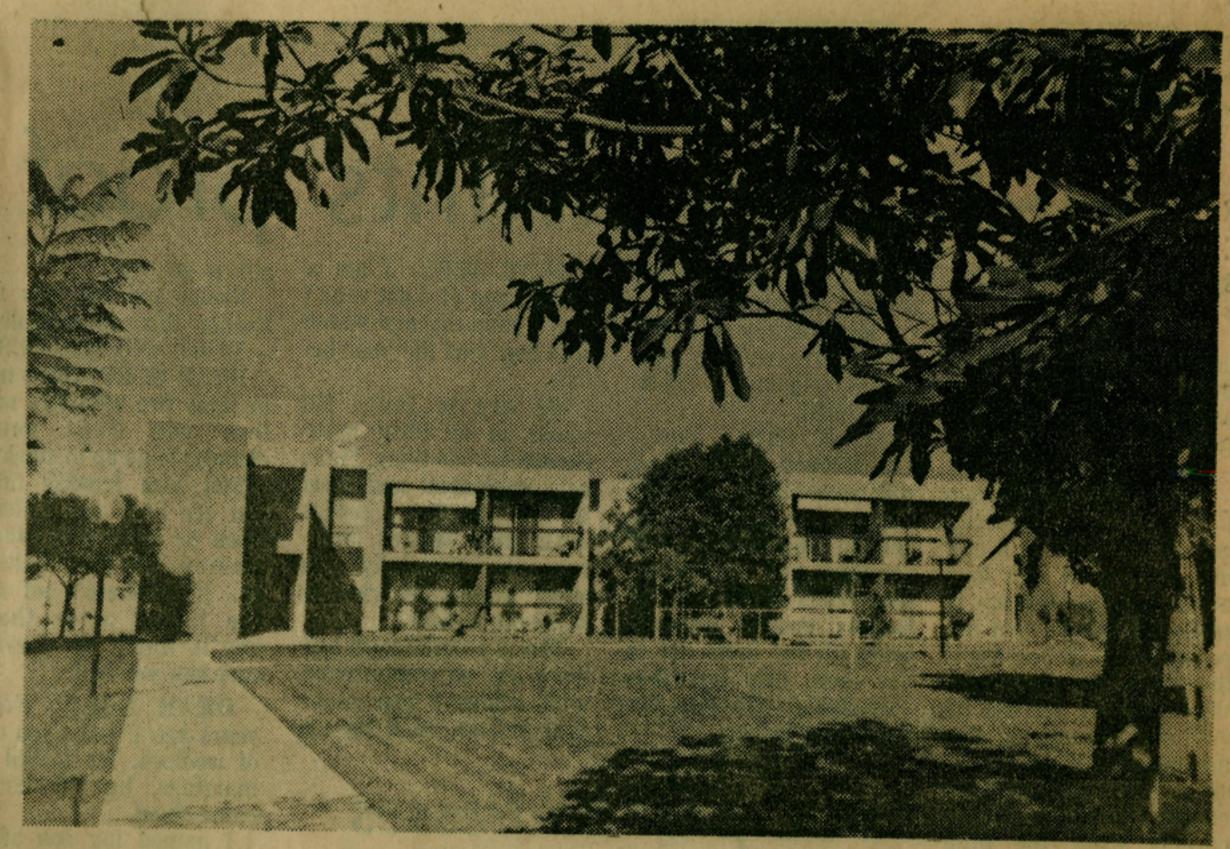


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### Gold Star Manor gets facelift

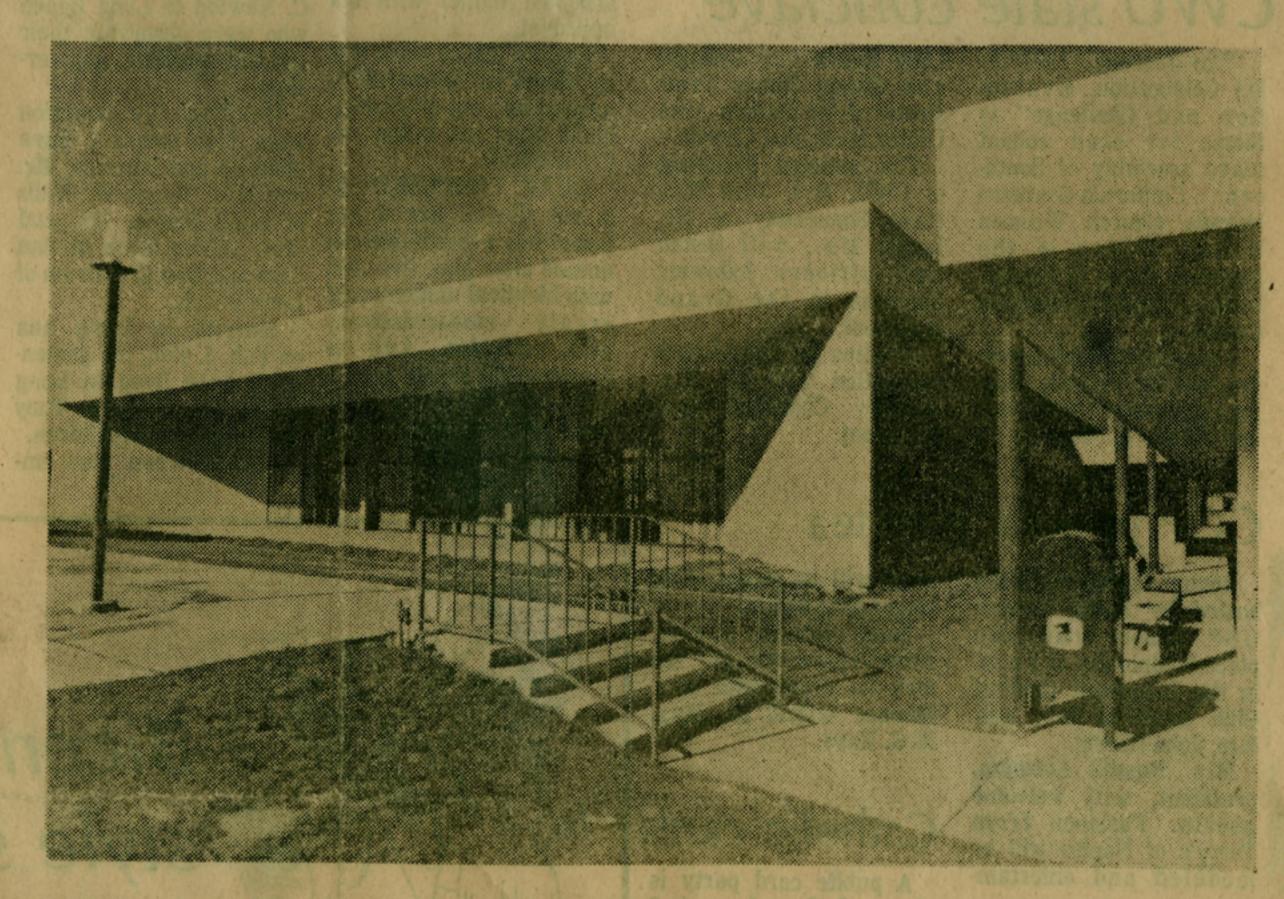


FLAGS fly from balconies of apartments at Gold Star Manor.

PRESS-TELEGRAM (PM)-A-13

Joyce Christensen, editor

life/style



WELL kept grounds surround apartment complexes at Gold Star Manor, Santa Fe Avenue and Spring Street.
Dedication of new buildings is scheduled Wednesday.

Staff

photos

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TOM

SHAW

LOW-RISE
Recreation Center is focal point for daily activities and meetings for residents at the

By DIANNE SMITH

Staff Writer

Long Beach, Calif., Tues., Jan. 20, 1976

INDEPENDENT (AM)

From temporary World War II housing to multilevel apartment complexes represents a \$6 million facelift for the westside.

The investment and transformation was made at the Gold Star Home compound at Santa Fe Avenue and Spring Street.

The wooden bungalows served as home for 500 Gold Star mothers and some fathers for nearly 30 years. The temporary facilities, constructed to meet wartime housing needs, were given to the American Gold Star Mothers organization by the Lanham Act at the conclusion of the Second World War. Under provisions of the gift, AGSM had to purchase the land — 93 acres in West Long Beach.

Every five years thereafter, the City of Long Beach had to give approval to extend the use of the temporary buildings. These extensions continued through 1973 when the Gold Star Home corporation, formed in 1957, applied to the Housing and Urban Development Department for federal assistance in building a new complex. With the financial grant, demolition of the old wooden structures began.

To coordinate the construction project, a new corporation was formed — the American Gold Star Manor — under sponsorship and guidance of the old corporation. The last of the old buildings was destroyed last summer and the first apartment units opened in June.

FORMAL DEDICATION ceremonies for the Manor — the only national residential complex for Gold Star mothers — are scheduled Wednesday at 2 p.m. Included in the complex are a recreation center, library, administration building and a therapy pool and jacuzzi.

To keep rents low enough for the residents to afford, the corporation sold 20 of the original 93 acres and leases another 40 acres. Of the 1,000 temporary buildings, one half were leased out as low income

housing to bring in extra revenue as well.

With the rebuilding, there are fewer apartments available, according to Edward F. Leonard, executive vice president. There are now nine three-story units with 36 apartments per unit and one two-story unit with 24 apartments for a total capacity of 348. The majority of the units are one bedroom, with some two bedroom and studio apartments available.

At present, the Manor is at full capacity with a waiting list of 100. To qualify for residence at the complex, a woman must be a member of the American Gold Star Mothers, an organization founded in 1928 for those who lost a son or daughter on active duty during a war.

The Manor is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees, which meets monthly. Most of the trustees are retired businessmen from the Los Angeles area. Originally, the Home was made a ward of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County and came under the court's jurisdiction. Trustees were appointed by the presiding judge of the Superior Court. Now,

they are elected, Leonard explained, and serve three-

Manor.

THERE ARE three women on the board, including the national AGSM president and vice president—who usually live out of state and can attend meetings only once or twice a year. The third woman is Mrs. Helen White, a past national president and resident of the Manor.

The average rent at the facility is \$84 a month, that's up from \$39 a month in the old buildings, Leonard said. "We never charge more than one quarter of a resident's yearly income. The rent includes routine maintenance and grounds upkeep, plus utilities.

"These people are so appreciative. The real beauty of this complex is its people — the average age is 84. They represent patriotism at its best," he added.

"Every day there are flags flying from balconies here, not just on holidays."





A DOUBLE LOSS—Frances Phillips, 79, in her apartment with the portraits of her two sons who were killed during World War II.

### GOLD STAR MOTHERS SHARE UNIQUE HOME

BY CHARLES HILLINGER **Times Staff Writer** 

All 348 women living in the new \$6.2 million Long Beach apartment complex have one thing in common.

Each lost a son or daughter during a war.

They are members of the American Gold Star Mothers, and they live in a 23acre park-like setting at the American Gold Star Manor. There is no other place like it in the United States.

American flags fly from apartment balconies every day, not just on holidays. Gold Star Mothers living at the manor come from throughout the nation. Their sons and daughters were killed in World Wars I and II, in Korea, in Vietnam.

"There's a closeness here that is difficult to explain, a togetherness, but not a sad togetherness," said Margaret Turner, 67, of Evanston, Ill.

Mrs. Turner's son, Kenneth, in Air Force intelligence, was killed during the Vietnam war. Mrs. Turner is one of six Vietnam war Gold Star Mothers at the manor.

Please Turn to Page 5, Col. 1



THE FLAGS FLY EVERY DAY—On balconies of the American Gold Star Manor are, from the top, Mrs. Dave Fling, Edith Heiss and husband Ralph (there are 55 couples at manor) and Myrta Cox.



'THERE'S A CLOSENESS HERE'—Members of Gold Star Mothers holding a monthly meeting. Times photos by John Malmin

### MANOR FOR GOLD STAR MOTHERS

#### Continued from First Page

"We don't just sit around here and cry on each others' shoulders," said Bertha Davis, 75, a 10-year resident who formerly lived in Spokane. "This is a very active place." Her son, J. Merle Adler, was a navigator on a B-29 shot down over Korea.

The youngest residents are in their middle 50s. Average age is 76. Ida May Austin, the only mother of a World War I casualty, is the oldest at 100.

"We're up to our elbows in clubs," laughed Mabel Hill, 70, of Hillsdale,

Mich. "No one has a chance to get lonesome."

When Mrs. Hill's son, Richard, a 19-year-old marine, was killed during World War II on the aircraft carrier Hornet, she joined the WACs.

"The main mission of Gold Star Mothers," Mrs. Hill explained, "is to work as volunteers at Veterans Hospitals and to help other Gold Star Mothers in need."

To be eligible to live in a one- or two-bedroom, fully furnished apartment, a woman must be a member of one of the 525 chapters of the American Gold Star Mothers.

The 20,000-member organization, headquartered in Washington, D.C., was founded in 1928.

The unique Gold Star Mothers community in Long Beach was established in 1955, using frame bungalows constructed as temporary housing during World War II for Navy dependents.

The women lived in the World War II bungalows until early this year when the 10 new 3-story apartment buildings were completed and dedicated.

All the old bungalows have since been razed.

Financing for the \$6.2 million complex was made possible through assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"In order to hold rents down, 30 acres of the original Navy housing land were sold in 1972 for \$1 million," explained Edward F. Leonard, a retired Navy captain and administrator of the complex.

"Another 40 acres were let on a long-term lease for a private mobile home community. That, too, gives the manor another source of supplemental income."

Gold Star Mothers pay an average

\$94 a month rent, which includes all utilities, maintenance and repair, wall-to-wall carpeting, draperies, refrigerator, stove, furniture and use of all facilities.

The largest Gold Star Mothers chapter in the country—the Home Chapter—is based here.

"This is a little bit of heaven," said Anna Maerki, 75, of Long Island. She and her husband, Charles (they've been married 58 years) have lived in the manor 15 years.

Their son, George, was a B-17 pilot shot down during the Normandy invasion. The Maerkis are one of 55 couples at the manor.

\* Los Angeles Times

Wed., Dec. 15, 1976 -Part III

Husbands are permitted to share the apartments, but not children. The vast majority of the women, however, are widows.

Many women have their own vegetable garden plots within the complex. There is a new 1,000-seat auditorium-recreation hall, a therapy pool and Jacuzzi, an arts and crafts center, a library, croquet court, shuffleboard, pool room, acres of lawns and a park.

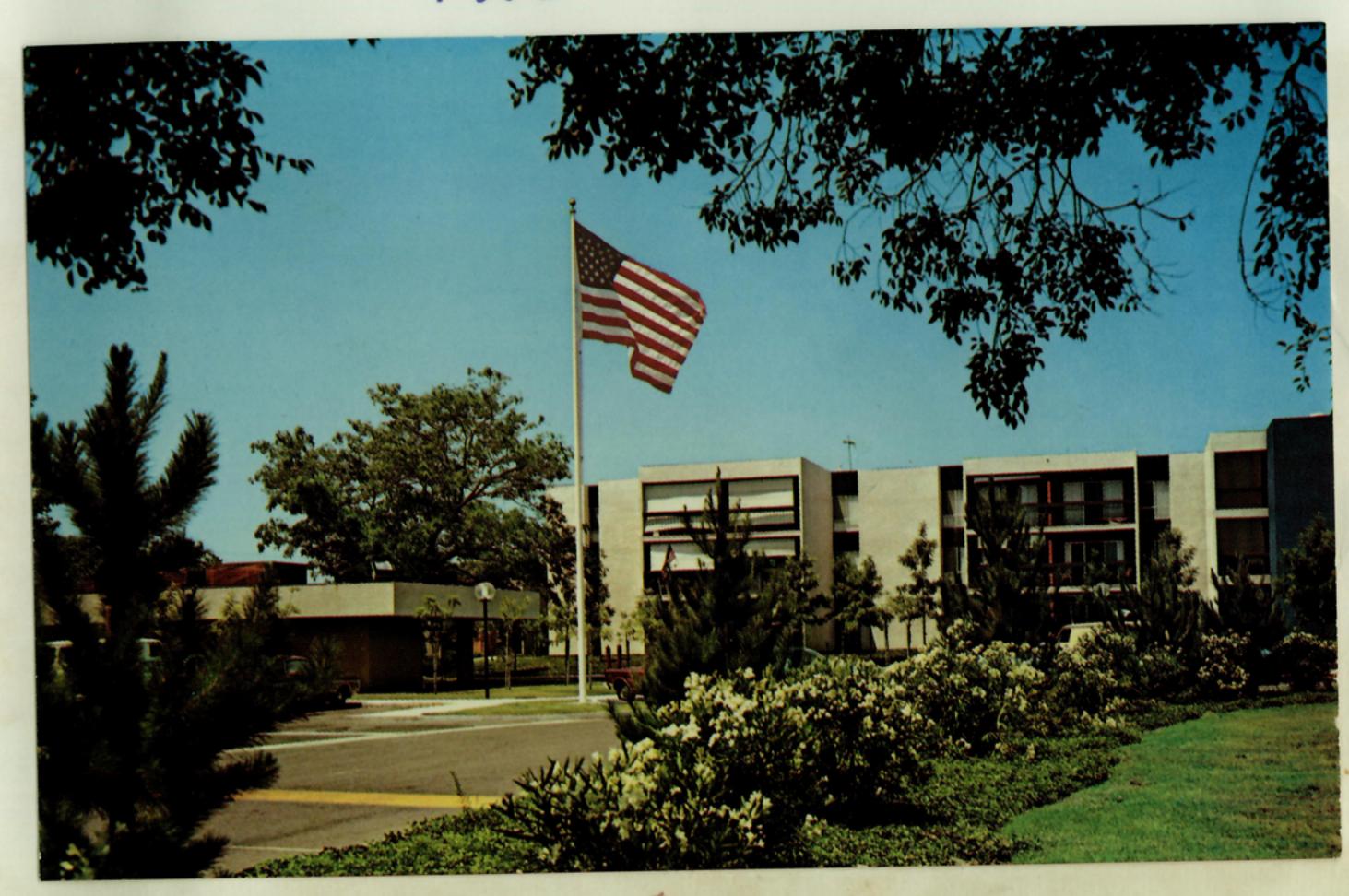
"We are so proud of this place," said Pearl Watkins, 76, of Evanston, Ill., whose son Robert, 18, was killed during World War II in the Pacific.







Pool area



New Manor.



Outside lee Hall leading to Memorial Park



Rose Garden & Memorial Park

SECTION B—Page B-1

# Gold Star Mothers patriots every day

By Brad Altman Staff Writer

Stars and stripes fly from apartment balconies every day — not just on the Fourth of July — at American Gold Star Manor in West Long Beach.

"We take our patriotism seriously," said Maymie Gibson, 77, a five-year resident who formerly lived in Des Moines, Iowa. Her two sons, both servicemen, were killed in World War II.

She is one of 343 Gold Star Mothers living in the \$6.2-million, 23-acre apartment complex at Spring Street and Wardlow Road. The compound is fenced, and guards stand round-the-clock sentry duty at the entrance gate.

The average age of the Gold Star Mothers — each of whom lost a son or daughter in one of the World Wars, Korea or Vietnam — is 78.

THE YOUNGEST resident is 54, while the oldest, 101-year-old Ida Mae Austin, is the only mother of a World War I casualty.

"For the most part, they're very happy people," said executive secretary Marge Cashdollar. "They have 15 clubs to join. There's bingo on Friday nights and twice-monthly movies and potlucks."

"I don't have a minute to be lonesome," Mrs. Gibson said. "You can't go on grieving. It's just something you have to live with."

The Long Beach chapter of the Gold Star Mothers was established in 1955, and for two decades, the women lived in temporary World War II bungalows built for the Navy.

In June 1975, the mothers moved into 10 new apartment buildings financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

They pay an average of \$113 a month for rent, which includes all utilities and repairs.

"It's a wonderful place," said Gladys Mullaney, 74, a native of Chicago. Her son, John Ewing, was aboard a Navy submarine when it disappeared off the coast of Australia in World War II.

She and her husband of 32 years. Jim, have lived in the manor for 15 years. They are one of 52 couples there.

HUSBANDS ARE permitted to share the apartments, and if the wife dies, the husband may retain the residence. The majority of the women, however, are widows.



AMERICAN FLAGS fly every day, top, at the American Gold Star Manor in West Long Beach, where patriotism is the rule, rather than exception, according to Maymie Gibson, 77. Mrs. Gibson, one of 343 Gold Star

Mothers living in the complex, pauses, above, to reflect on Independence Day with portraits of her two sons, both of whom were killed during World War II.

—Staff Photos by TOM SHAW



Hatlerine marrier



Levants' gardens





CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE AMERICAN GOLD STAR MANOR, DONATED DECEMBER, 1981 BY MRS. JOHANSON



MR. & MRS. CLAUS--PORTRAYED BY HELEN KREUTZ, BOOKKEEPER AS SANTA AND MARGE FUNICELLO, SECRETARY AS MRS. CLAUS AT 1981 CHRISTMAS PARTY



MR. & MRS. CLAUS GREETING ALL AT 1981 CHRISTMAS PARTY.



SANTA WITH TREATS FOR EVERYONE.



MRS. CLAUS ENJOYING SOME CONVERSATION



VERNIA PIERCE ENJOYING A VISIT WITH SANTA



EVERYONE ENJOYING THE DELICIOUS LUNCHEON

### Production "Golden Oldies" - April 17, 1989

Jane Barks, Director audy Bittoy-assistant





















